

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11519 060245Z

73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

IO-14 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01

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O R 050920Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4372

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11519

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS JA

SUBJ: JAPAN-ROK DIFFICULTIES

REF: TOKYO 11328

SUMMARY: REFLECTING SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS, GOJ APPEARS TO BE STUDYING AMELIORATIVE MEASURES. AS INITIAL STEP, FONMIN KIMURA EXPRESSED REGRET IN DIET HIS REMARKS ON "THREAT FROM NORTH" CAUSED MISUNDERSTANDING AND PROVIDED FULLER EXPLANATION OF HIS MEANING. FINMIN OHIRA TOLD DIET GOJ HAD NO INTENTION OF REVISING ITS AID POLICY TOWARD ROK. FURTHER PROPOSALS WILL BE PRESENTED TO PM SEPT 6 INCLUDING PROPOSED LETTER RESPONDING TO ROK DEMARCHE MADE THROUGH AMB USHIROKU. IN MEANTIME, OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES ARE ATTACKING ROK FOR INTERFERING IN JAPAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CALLING FOR STERN GOJ REACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ATTEMPTING TO STEM DETERIORATION IN ROK-JAPAN

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 11519 060245Z

RELATIONS ACCENTUATED BY PRESIDENT PARK'S DEMANDS MADE

TO AMB USHIROKU LAST WEEKEND, GOJ OFFICIALS HAVE CONFERRED ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY ON LEGAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO PARK'S DEMANDS. SOME INITIAL STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN. FONMIN KIMURA IN DIET LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SEPT 5 EXPLAINED IN BROADER TERMS HIS VIEWS OF SECURITY SITUATION IN KOREAN PENINSULA IN AN EFFORT TO MITIGATE DAMAGE CAUSED BY STATEMENT ON ABSENCE OF THREAT FROM NORTH TO ROK.

2. SAYING HE HAD PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT EXPLANATION, KIMURA EXPRESSED REGRET HIS EARLIER STATEMENT CAUSED MISUNDERSTANDING. WHILE ADMITTING TENSIONS STILL EXIST BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, HE SAID HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF FULL SCALE MILITARY CLASH SIMILAR TO KOREAN WAR IN FIFTIES. AS GROUNDS FOR HIS VIEW, KIMURA CITED 1953 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, UN FORCES STATIONED IN KOREA, BALANCED MILITARY FORCES IN NORTH AND SOUTH US-ROK SECURITY TREATY, AND CHANGED INTERNATIONAL SITUATION SURROUNDING KOREA, PARTICULARLY US-CHINA RECONCILIATION AND US-SOVIET DETNETE.

3. ATTEMPTING TO NIP IN BUD CALLS FOR ENDING AID TO ROK, FINANCE MINISTER OHIRA TOLD DIET SEPT 5 GOJ HAD NO INTENTION OF RECONSIDERING ITS AID POLICY VIS-A-VIS SOUTH KOREA.

4. FONOFF NE ASIA DIV (SEO) TOLD US SEPT 5 THAT GOJ ASSESSMENT IS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PM TANAKA SEPT 6 AM. HE PROMISED TO BRIEF US RIGHT AFTERWARD. AMONG PROPOSALS APPARENTLY IS LETTER RESPONSE TO PRES PARK'S DEMANDS. DEP FONMIN ARITA TOLD POLCOUNS LETTER WOULD BE READIED FOR DELIVERY SEPT 7.

5. POLITICAL OPPOSITION JOINED FRAY SEPT 4 WITH SOCIALISTS DEMANDING THAT ROK CEASE INTERFERING IN JAPAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RALLIES ARE PLANNED FOR SEPT 19 AND OPPOSITION IS MAKING FAMILIAR DEMANDS THAT AID TO ROK SHOULD BE TERMINATED AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH PYONGYANG.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 11519 060245Z

6. COMMENT: UNTIL WE ARE CLEARER ON DETAILS OF GOJ PLANS, HOPEFULLY TOMORROW, IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE HOW EFFECTIVE THEIR CURRENT EFFORT WILL BE. KIMURA'S "CLARIFICATION" TODAY SHOWS HOW HARD IT IS FOR THEM. HODGSON

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